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Letter dated 17 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It gives me great pleasure to enclose herewith for your information and through you to members of the Security Council the agreed outcomes of the Tripartite Committee meeting, comprising the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations, held in Khartoum on 16 November 2008. The outcomes demonstrate the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to the full deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem **Mohamad**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Government of the Sudan, African Union and United Nations Tripartite Committee on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

16 November 2008, Khartoum

Agreed Outcomes

1. On 16 November 2008 representatives from the Government of Sudan (GoS), the African Union (AU), and the United Nations (UN) the met in Khartoum to conduct the second Tri-partite Committee Meeting on UNAMID. The meeting focused on logistical issues relating to UNAMID deployment and the steps taken by the AU UN and Government to ensure its expeditious deployment and effective functioning.

2. The Government team included representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defense, National Security and the Sudanese Civil Aviation Authority, and was led by Dr. Mutrif Siddiq, Under Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Sudan Railways. The African Union Commission delegation was led by Mr. Germain Baricako, the Senior Advisor for AMIS Liquidation/AU Liaison Office in Khartoum. The United Nations delegation was led by Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ms. Susana Malcorra; and the UNAMID delegation was led by the Joint Special Representative, Mr. Rodolphe Adada.

3. The meeting which was convened in the spirit of transparency and collaboration reviewed the actions taken in follow-up to the agreements reached in the last Tri-partite Meeting of 7 October 2008. The following issues were discussed:

i. Freedom of Movement:

- White helicopters: On 14 October 2008, the Government of Sudan instructed the Armed Forces and Civil Aviation Authorities to ensure that Government helicopters and those used by Governmental and commercial contractors are clearly distinct from those used by international actors. This instruction became effective on 25 October 2008. Since the issuance of the circular, UNAMID has not observed any incident reporting the use of white helicopters by non-international actors. The Government requested that UNAMID bring any violation of this decision to its attention.

- Helicopter crash investigation of 29 September 2008: The Government of Sudan has agreed to follow-up the request for ICAO to assist in reviewing the circumstances

surrounding the helicopter crash operated by UNAMID contractor on 29 September 2008.

- Threat notification: The UN and UNAMID noted with satisfaction that the Government has shared information on security threats with UNAMID.

ii. Air operations:

- Rehabilitation of airports: The Government of Sudan called for the review of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) presented by UNAMID; specifically with respect to the need to: a) UNAMID accepting liabilities of potential relevant damages to airports; and b) timelines and specific plans for upgrading airports.

- With a view to reach the 24/7 service target, the GoS and UNAMID agreed to outline clear milestones for the phased upgrade of airports and to discuss the question of liabilities in the joint review of the MoU to ensure a clear way forward in terms of timelines and deliverables.

- Receipt of Ethiopian helicopters: UNAMID informed the Government of Sudan that the Ethiopian helicopters might be deployed sooner than previously anticipated, calling for a requirement for the Civil Aviation Authority to work with UNAMID to cater for interim arrangements. The Government of Sudan agreed to work jointly with UNAMID to prepare for the deployment of the Ethiopian helicopters.

iii. Flight Clearances:

- Flight clearances: UNAMID and the UN expressed its satisfaction with the support provided during the deployment of COE for the Pakistani level III hospital and trust that the same effective coordination and support will be provided for the planned Rwandan and other forthcoming deployments.

- Request for exception to the Government's ban on operating aircraft older than twenty years (one C130 in Sudan because it is the only aircraft that can land in El-Genina and there is no other available commercial options): The Government of Sudan agreed, in principle, to grant the exception, with the understanding that the United Nations takes appropriate measures with regards to the safety standards of these aircrafts and accepts associated potential liabilities. The United Nations reiterated its commitment and adherence to international aviation safety and security standards and agreed to share the United Nations aviation safety policies and procedures with the Government of Sudan. In addition, the parties agreed that UNAMID engage the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure that aviation safety and security standards are met, that the liability questions are properly addressed and that this critical aircraft is deployed.

iv. Convoy Protection/ Support

- The UNAMID expressed its satisfaction with the level of convoy protection provided by the Government of Sudan. Although not a prerequisite for continued support of convoy protection, the Government of Sudan requested that the United Nations explore the feasibility of strengthening and building capacity for police. The United Nations agreed to explore this request and will revert as soon as possible.

- The Government of Sudan reiterated its recommendation that UNAMID minimize the risk of theft or carjack of vehicles through a rigorous and transparent screening process in the selection of drivers to ensure professionalism and impartiality. That point was broadened to include all recruitment of national staff. UNAMID agreed to coordinate with Sudanese Security Authorities to ensure that potential drivers do not have criminal records. With regards to the recruitment of national staff, UNAMID took note of the views expressed, and reiterated its adherence to United Nations recruitment policies that mandate fair and transparent selection processes for all potential candidates from all groups.

v. Railway

- The United Nations confirmed receipt of the Government of Sudan's proposals for the rehabilitation of portions of the railway (Al-Rahad - Nyala). UNAMID is assessing the extent of the support it could provide based upon the advice of external expertise.

vi. Visa Processing

- The United Nations noted the significant progress made on the processing of visas. UNAMID and GoS agreed to further streamline the process by ensuring that all visa requests, including those of police and military components, be channeled to the Government of Sudan only through UNAMID.

vii. Customs Clearance

- Arrangements have been satisfactory.

viii. Government Liaison

- The United Nations and African Union noted with appreciation, the appointment of Major General Mohiey Al-Deen Abdulkafi and of focal points in each of the three Darfur states, as central to the progress made in the coordination between UNAMID and the Government of Sudan. The GoS and UNAMID look forward to further strengthening liaison in ensuring local implementation of decisions taken at a national level.

ix. Military deployments

- The United Nations, the African Union and the Government of Sudan reiterated their joint support for the self-deployment of the second Egyptian and Ethiopian battalions.

4. In addition to the above issues, the following were introduced:

x. Medical Evacuation:

- UNAMID requested one helicopter to be deployed in each of the super camps in order to respond faster to Medical Evacuations. The Government agreed in principal to the proposal, and requested UNAMID to work with the relevant officials to develop the necessary implementation protocol.

xi. Frequency for UNAMID radio

- UNAMID is seeking allocation of a frequency for broadcast radio system for Darfur. The Government agreed to meet with UNAMID to discuss.

5. The Government requested UNAMID to ensure that its personnel respect the religion as well as the local culture and traditions in Darfur. UNAMID took note of the Government of Sudan's observation and reiterated its commitment to respecting the local culture and tradition, emphasizing the UN' robust policy for discouraging and addressing misconduct in its Field Missions.

6. The Government recalled the principle of the African character of the Mission and observed that this principle should apply to the civilian component. The African Union concurred. UNAMID will share with the GoS information as regards the geographical situation of its civilian staff.

7. It was agreed that the next Tri-partite meeting would be held in Addis Ababa sometime during the second week of January of 2009. The confirmation of the exact date and arrangements for the third Tri-partite meeting, as well as the agenda preparation will be developed in advance by UNAMID.

8. In concluding the meeting, the Government, the African Union and the UN took note of the progress made towards resolving the key support issues tabled for action during the First Tripartite Meeting held on 7 October 2008. In this connection, the delegations reiterated the importance of the tri-partite mechanism and of conducting said meetings on regular basis to expedite the deployment of UNAMID.

(*Signed*) For the Government of Sudan
Dr. Mutrif **Siddiq**

(*Signed*) For the African Union
Germain **Baricako**

(*Signed*) For the United Nations
Ms. Susana **Malcorra**